

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: CHANNELING OF FOREIGN LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH
PLCC

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACTING LABOR SECRETARY INCIONG HAS CALLED FOR CHANNELING OF FOREIGN LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH NEWLY-FORMED PLCC, RATHER THAN DEALING WITH VARIETY SEPARATE AND COMPETING TRADE UNIONS. PARTICIPANTS IN JULY 14 MEETING (INCLUDING AFL-CIO'S AAFLI) ACCEPTED BROAD OUTLINES INCIONG'S PLAN IN PRINCIPLE, WHILE POINTING OUT CERTAIN PITFALLS AND SENSITIVITIES. PROPOSED CENTRALIZATION SCHEME IS SIGNIFICANT MOVE WHICH WOULD SERVE TO ENLIST FOREIGN DONOR ORGANIZATIONS IN LABOR UNIFICATION DRIVE. ALTHOUGH DOL WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT REMAIN IN BACKGROUND, INDICATIONS ARE THAT FLEDGING PLCC IN INITIAL STAGES WILL DRAW HEAVILY ON LABOR EXPERTS AT GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ALEC AND UP LAW CENTER FOR BACKSTOPPING. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING LABOR SECRETARY AMADO INCIONG CALLED MEETING JULY 14 TO DISCUSS DESIRABILITY IN FUTURE TO CHANNEL ALL FOREIGN LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH NEWLY-ORGANIZED PLCC (PHILIPPINE LABOR COORDINATING CENTER - SEE A-171). INVITED WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM AFL-CIO'S AAFLI, WEST
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GERMANY'S FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FES) AND KONRAD

ADENAUER FOUNDATION (KAF), ASIAN LABOR EDUCATION CENTER (ALEC), UNIFIED EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECOP), PLCC, LABOR-ORIENTED UP LAW CENTER, AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL). LABATT ALSO INCLUDED.

2. INCIONG DECLARED THAT RECENT FORMATION UNIFIED PLCC AND IMPLEMENTATION NEW LABOR CODE HAD CHANGED THINGS "DRASTICALLY" WITH RESPECT HOW FOREIGN LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHOULD OPERATE IN PHILIPPINES. ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AAFLI, FES, AND KAF WOULD NO LONGER HAVE TO DEAL WITH VARIETY SEPARATE AND COMPETING TRADE UNIONS. INTENTION WAS TO HAVE PLCC ACT AS COORDINATING AND MONITORING CENTER FOR ALL LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS INCLUDING SOME GOP-SPONSORED PROGRAMS.

3. INCIONG WENT ON TO ADMIT THAT AT THIS STAGE OF FILIPINO DEVELOPMENT, THE "INTERNATIONAL" LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS -- RATHER THAN LOCAL ONES -- WERE MOST DYNAMIC AND HAD "IMPORTANT ROLE" TO PLAY. THEY CREATED PROPER CLIMATE FOR IMPROVEMENT DOMESTIC PROGRAMS "JUST AS BRITISH NAVY ALLOWED STRUGGLING YOUNG U.S. TO DEVELOP". IN SETTING UP NEW SYSTEM OF OPERATIONS, INCIONG PROMISED KEY WORD WOULD BE FLEXIBILITY FOR "NEW SOCIETY DOESN'T WANT RIGIDITY". HE SUGGESTED PROMPT ESTABLISHMENT SMALL WORKING COMMITTEE TO 1) DRAFT SUTIALABLE GUIDELINES AND 2) DISCUSS MATTER WITH LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE WHO RETURNING TO MANILA JULY 16.

4. PARTICIPANTS ACCEPTED BROAD OUTLINE INCIONG'S PLAN IN PRINCIPLE, BUT POINTED OUT CERTAIN PITFALLS AND SENSITIVITIES. ROBERTO OCA (PRESIDENT, PLCC) STRESSED LABOR'S GREAT NEED FOR CONTINUING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN LABOR EDUCATION FIELD AND NECESSITY WORK OUT NEW ARRANGEMENTS WHICH FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS COULD LIVE WITH. HE NOTED PLCC STILL IN PROCESS ORGANIZING ITSELF AND THAT ITS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO GRAB HOLD WITHOUT DELAY TO COPE WITH NEW PROPOSAL. BOTH AAFLT AND FES INDICATED WILLINGNESS WORK WITH PLCC, BUT REMINDED GROUP THEIR PROGRAMS AND FUNDING DETERMINED ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE WHICH WOULD LIMIT CONSULTATIONS ON PROGRAM CONTENT FOR CURRENT YEAR.

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5. LABATT EXPRESSED HOPE PHILIPPINE LABOR WOULD INDEED BE MAKING ITS OWN INDEPENDENT DECISIONS REGARDING LABOR EDUCATION NEEDS. WARNED THAT U.S. TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN ITS OVERSEAS PROGRAMS TRADITIONALLY SENSITIVE TO ANY INDICATIONS GOVERNMENT SEEKING PLACE TRADE UNIONS UNDER ITS THUMB. INCIONG REPLIED THAT DOL WISHED REMAIN IN BACKGROUND AND ITS UP TO PLCC RUN WITH BALL.

6. COMMENT: CHANNELING OF LABOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH PLCC IS SIGNIFICANT MOVE WHICH WOULD SERVE TO ENLIST FOREIGN DONOR ORGANIZATIONS IN LABOR UNIFICATION DRIVE. AAFLI HAS ALREADY BEEN CONSULTING WITH PLCC REGARDING COMPOSITION PARTICIPANTS IN COMING SEMINARS. PROPOSED CONTRALIZATION SCHEME WOULE PUT END TO CHOSEN INSTRUMENT POLICY FOLLOWED BY FEA AND KAF UNDER WHICH FORMER ASSISTED ONLY ALU AND PTGWO AND LATTER ASSISTED ONLY FFW, TO ANNOYANCE DOL AND UNIONS LEFT IN COLD. AAFLI, ON CONTRARY, HAS BEEN FOLLOWING POLICY OF TRYING TO INCLUDE MOST MAJOR UNIONS IN ITS PROGRAMS. ALTHOUGH DOL PROBABLY WILL ATTEMPT REMAIN IN BACKGROUND, INDICATIONS ARE THAT FLEDGLING PLCC IN INITIAL STAGES WILL DRAW HEAVILY ON LABOR EDUCATION EXPERTS AT GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ALEC AND UP LAW CENTER FOR BACK-STOPPING. PURNELL

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